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## Afghanistan's Judicial Training Program Graduates 140 New Judges

**KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | MAY 16, 2011** — Justice Abdul Salam Azimi, the Chief Justice of the Afghanistan Supreme Court and U.S. Ambassador Hans G. Klemm, Coordinating Director for Rule of Law and Law Enforcement, attended the 26th Annual Judicial Stage Graduation Ceremony at the Ministerial Palace in Kabul. The program trains law, Shari'a, and Madrassa graduates to become judges. This year, 140 students were conferred degrees in the program.

Addressing the graduating class, Ambassador Klemm encouraged the students to continue to strive to improve themselves through their continued pursuit of knowledge.

The ceremony also featured the speech of Chief Justice Azimi. In his keynote address to the new judges, the Chief Justice said, "You should be committed to fight sincerely against injustice. If you favor national interests, Afghanistan will develop and you as citizens of this country will also become prosperous."

USAID's Rule of Law Stabilization Program – Formal Component, which sponsored this program, is designed to develop the human and institutional capacity of the justice sector, increase the public's access to justice, particularly women, and promote the public's demand for a robust rule of law environment in Afghanistan.

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